

This is
Art

What is Art?

Portugal is a destination where culture and life blend seamlessly: #LifeisArt, in perfect harmony.

The appreciation of artworks goes beyond museums and galleries, encompassing diverse gastronomy, wine tourism, sunny days and inviting surf waves. Every experience is an artistic expression, a vibrant open-air journey. Discover in Portugal the Art to be contemplated, appreciated, and lived.

Index

ART IN PORTUGAL

04

MODERN ART

12

ARCHITECTURE

16

URBAN ART

19

CRAFT ART

22

Portugal is
Art

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Portugal's cultural essence is deeply intertwined with its geographical location and rich history. **Art and heritage** as well as the **friendly, welcoming nature** of the Portuguese themselves have been marked by influences from the other continents and by the peoples who lived here before the country was founded.

TUGAL

Portugal is Europe's oldest nation, and its Atlantic coastline provided the springboard for the Age of Discoveries.

Presenting all kinds of styles from different periods, the Portuguese Art takes you on a thrilling journey through the country's rich past.

**“THE PORTUGUESE
HERITAGE TAKES
YOU ON A THRILL-
ING JOURNEY”**

Ancient Beginnings

Approximately 150 million years ago, dinosaurs roamed the west coast of what is now Portugal. Remarkably, traces of their existence, including a rare concentration of 180 carnivorous dinosaur eggs - the second largest nest of its kind

in the world - have been preserved. The Lourinhã Municipal Museum provides insight into this prehistoric era, and real dinosaur footprints can be observed at Pedreira do Galinha in the Serra de Aires e dos Candeeiros Natural Park.

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Prehistoric Art

In the **Vale do Côa Archaeological Park**, you will find the world's largest open-air museum of Paleolithic art, with rock carvings from 25 thousand years ago, as well as paintings from recent prehistory and even from the Iron Age. These ancestral creations have been recognized as **UNESCO World Heritage**.

Megalithic Era

In the **Évora region**, visitors can explore significant examples of megalithic art: the Xerez Cromlech and the Almendres Cromlech, as well as the Anta Grande do Zambujeiro.

Remains of pre-Roman fortified settlements can also be found all over the country, with the most notable example being **Citânia de Briteiros**, in the Guimarães region. In Mação, visit the Museum of Prehistoric and Sacred Art in the Tagus Valley.



Paleolithic art, Vale do Côa Archaeological Park

Ruins of Conímbriga



Roman Period

The Romans left behind a valuable legacy in Portugal, with remnants of their **art, culture, engineering, and architecture**. Besides all the bridges, roads, villas, temples and baths that are to be found all over the country, make sure to visit the ruins of Conímbriga, Miróbriga and Ammaia, the PO.ROS Museum, the Roman Temple in Évora, the Milreu Villa ruins in Faro, and the National Museum of Archaeology in Lisbon.

Islamic Legacy

The Islamic influence, lasting eight centuries, is profoundly embedded in Portuguese culture. The Muslims, Jews, and Christians coexisted, **enriching the nation's literature, art, astronomy, geography, medicine, and cuisine.** The Arab presence from the 8th century to the late 15th century, particularly in southern Portugal, is evident in the castles of Silves and Mértola.

See more at: www.pathsoffaith.com



City view of Mértola

Formation of Portugal

Portugal emerged as a nation in 1143, and to ensure its protection and conquer more territory many castles and fortresses were built, thereby guaranteeing the country's sovereignty.

The imposing castle at Guimarães, known as the **“cradle of the nation”**, along with the fortresses of Óbidos and the Templar castle of Almourol built in the very middle of the River Tagus, exemplify this era's defensive architecture. The border region between Portugal and Spain is dotted with **notable castles** such as those in Bragança, Almeida, Marvão, and Elvas.

D. Afonso Henriques Statue & Castle of Guimarães



Cathedrals Era

The 12th and 13th centuries, under the reign of Portugal's first kings, saw the construction of many cathedrals. The cathedral in Braga is the oldest, with other **remarkable Romanesque and Gothic examples** to be found in Porto, Coimbra, Viseu, Guarda, Lisbon, Évora, and Silves. These monuments, often dedicated to Marian devotion, provide a **rich tapestry of Portugal's religious heritage**.

See more at:

www.pathsoffaith.com



Cathedral of Braga

Jewish Heritage

Sephardic Jewish communities have significantly influenced Portugal's development. Despite religious differences they were protected by the Portuguese monarchs and enjoyed freedoms that allowed businessmen, men of science and of letters, philosophers, doctors and astronomers to thrive and contribute to Portugal's culture and knowledge.

Along the so-called **route of the Jewish quarters**, an important testimony to the former Sephardic communities that settled in Portugal is preserved. The old Jewish quarters of Belmonte and Castelo de Vide are two of the finest examples, in addition to the many traces to be found throughout the country, such as in Lisbon, Porto, Trancoso, Guarda, Tomar, Évora and Faro.

See more at: www.pathsoffaith.com

Manueline Art

The 16th century was a period of great maritime exploration for Portugal. Under the reign of king Manuel I, the wealth brought back from these voyages funded the construction of **rich monuments that stood as eternal**

symbols for Humanity such as the Jerónimos Monastery and the Belém Tower, in Lisbon, the Batalha Monastery, and the Convent of Christ, in Tomar, all UNESCO World Heritage sites.

See more visitportugal.com

Cloisters of the Mosteiro dos Jerónimos



rich monuments

Baroque Splendor

The 18th century's prosperity is evident in Portugal's baroque art, characterised by the combination of **azulejos** (glazed tiles), **gilded woodcarvings**, and **painting** besides the **complex marble works**.

The Mafra Convent, Basílica da Estrela, Bom Jesus Sanctuary, in Braga, Nossa Senhora dos Remédios Sanctuary, in Lamego, and São Francisco Convent, in Porto are notable examples.

It was in the 18th century that azulejos became one of the main features of Portuguese decoration in churches

and convents, palaces and homes, gardens, fountains and staircases.

LIVING

With geometric patterns, telling the life stories of saints or depicting profane themes, sometimes with captions like an old version of a cartoon. Travelling across the country is like visiting a living museum of tiles, but it is in the **National Tile Museum in Lisbon** that you can get to know, like nowhere else, their history and artistic and technical evolution, from early times to modern-day production. Visit also Museu Berardo Estremoz.

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Romanticism

The **19th century's romantic era** is epitomized by structures like the neoclassical Palácio da Bolsa (Stock Exchange), in Porto, with its Moorish-style Arabian Hall, the neo-Manueline Buçaco Palace and the cultural landscape of Sintra, a **UNESCO World Heritage site**.

The Sintra National Palace, Park and Palace of Pena, Monserrate Palace, and Quinta da Regaleira are must-see landmarks.

See more at:
visitportugal.com

UNESCO

World Heritage

In Portugal, culture and heritage have **unique characteristics** stemming from historical events and the outlook of a people who, as they learned from the rest of the world, adapted this new knowledge to their way of living and their land.

You'll realise what these features are that make up the Portuguese character in cities, monuments and landscapes, which in their own way also tell a **part of the history of the world**.

“10 INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGES”

For this reason, they were listed as World Heritage. have been recognized by UNESCO. With 17 sites and

10 intangible cultural heritages listed as World Heritage, Portugal's contributions to world history are vast and diverse, offering **a compelling reason to explore the country from north to south**.

For more detailed information and exploration:

[Visit Portugal: World Heritage](#)

[In the heart of Portugal](#)

[In the North of Portugal](#)

[Lisbon, Sintra, Évora and Elvas](#)

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Modern Art is Inspiration

Contemporary Portugal

In the world of visual arts, the 20th century was marked by the **genius and talent of many Portuguese creators** whose names have inevitably been added to the **international list of contemporary artists**, such as Vieira da Silva, Amadeo Souza Cardoso, Paula Rego, Graça Morais, Júlio Pomar, Cargaleiro, José de Guimarães, Pedro Cabrita Reis and Julião Sarmento, among others.

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Discover their work at Portuguese galleries and museums and **surrender to the charms of contemporary art.**

RY

Graça Morais Contemporary Art Centre

Centro de Arte Contemporânea Graça Morais,
Porto e Norte, Bragança

Serralves Museum, Porto

Nadir Afonso Museum of Contemporary Art

Museu de Arte
Contemporânea
Nadir Afonso

Porto e Norte,
Chaves

José de Guimarães International Centre for the Arts

Centro Internacio-
nal das Artes José
de Guimarães

Porto e Norte,
Guimarães

Serralves Museum of Contem- porary Art

Fundação
de Serralves

Porto e Norte, Porto



Oliva Creative Factory

Centro de
Arte Oliva

Porto e Norte, São
João da Madeira

Art Nouveau Museum

Museu de
Arte Nova

Center of Por-
tugal, Aveiro

Cargaleiro Museum

Museu Cargaleiro

Center of Portu-
gal, Castelo Branco

GE

mijlmo - Museum of the Image in Motion

Museu da Imagem em Movimento

Center of Portugal, Leiria

Calouste Gulbenkian Museum and Modern Art Centre

Museu Calouste Gulbenkian e Centro de Arte Moderna

Lisboa

MAC/CCB Museum of Contemporary Art

Museu de Arte Contemporânea

MAC/CCB

Lisboa

Culturgest – CGD Collection

Lisboa

Arpad Szènes - Vieira da Silva Museum

Museu Arpad Szènes - Vieira da Silva

Lisboa

Júlio Pomar Atelier-Museum

Atelier-Museu Júlio Pomar

Lisboa

B-MAD, Berardo - Museum Art Deco

BMAD - Berardo Museu Art Deco

Lisboa

MAAT – Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology

Museu de Arte, Arquitetura e Tecnologia

Lisboa

Paula Rego Museum

Casa das Histórias

Paula Rego

Lisboa, Cascais

“SURRENDER TO THE CHARMES OF CONTEMPORARY ART”

Museum of Neo-Realism

Museu do Neo-Realismo

Lisboa, Vila Franca de Xira

Eugénio de Almeida Foundation - Culture and Art Centre

Centro de Arte e Cultura

Alentejo, Évora

Elvas Museum of Contemporary Art

Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Elvas

Alentejo, Elvas

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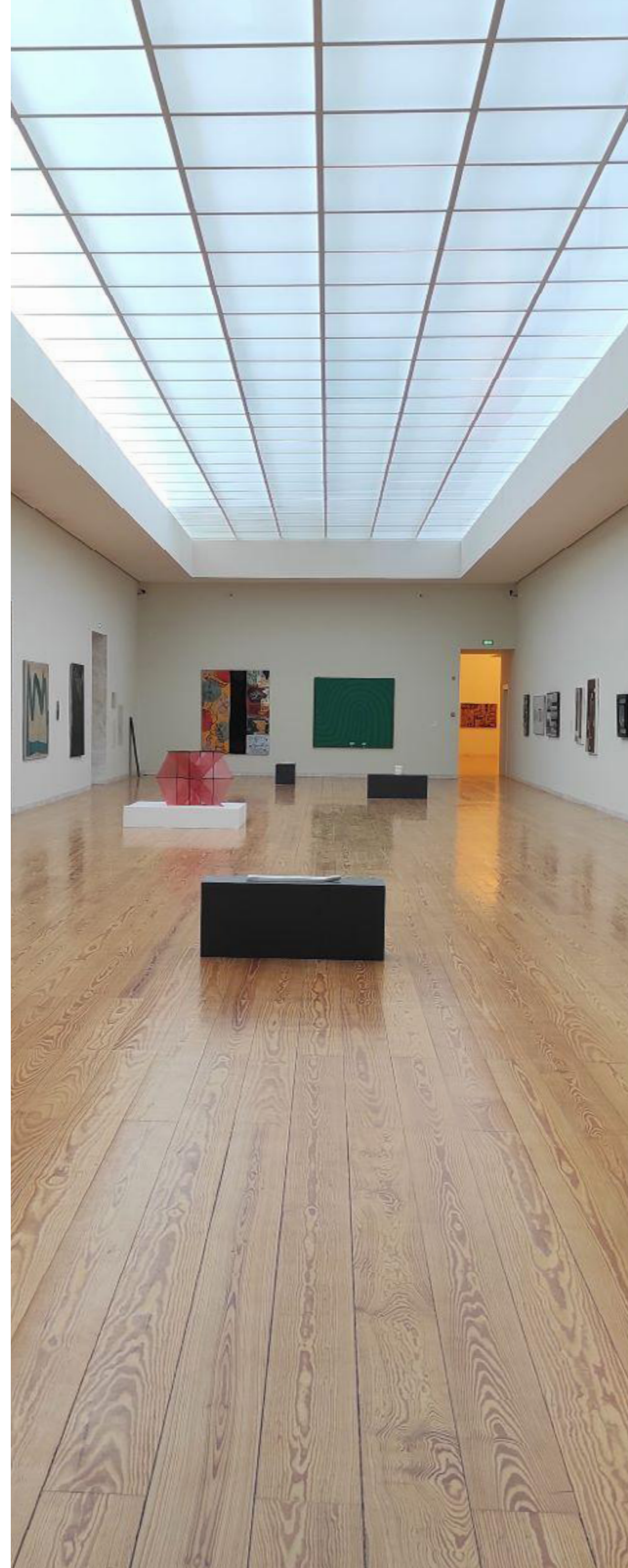
Architecture Art is Perspective

Architecture in Portugal

Portugal boasts a significant number of **contemporary architectural masterpieces**, both nationally and internationally recognized. Explore the country by visiting these architectural works, which reflect the context, ideas, and intentions of their creators, providing an experience that emphasizes direct engagement with place and form.

The Faculty of Architecture at the University of Porto has been the training ground for several **world-renowned architects**, such as Álvaro Siza Vieira and Eduardo Souto de Moura, both Pritzker Prize winners, and Fernando Távora. Similarly, the Lisbon School of Fine Arts produced prominent architects like Carrilho da Graça and Manuel Salgado. These architects, among others, are responsible for the **distinctive notes of modernity found throughout the Portuguese landscape.**

Nadir Afonso Contemporary Art Museum, Chaves



MUST-SEE PROJECTS

To assist you in this discovery, **various routes are proposed** that you can follow independently or with a specialized guide.

In the **Porto and North Region**, notable works include the Nadir Afonso Contemporary Art Museum in Chaves, the Braga Municipal Stadium, Piscina das Marés and Casa de Chá da Boa Nova in Leça da Palmeira, and Casa das Artes in Porto.

In **Lisboa Region**, the Parque das Nações quarter, the Cruise Terminal, and Campo das Cebolas are must-see projects that highlight urban intervention in the city's riverside area.

See more at [Architecture in Porto and North: Between contemporary lines](#)

See more at [Contemporary architecture in the streets of Lisbon](#)

Campo das Cebolas, Lisbon (by FG&SC)



architectural
discovery

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Urban Art is Light

Street Art

In Portugal, urban art plays a prominent role with **true open-air galleries**, where various renowned artists showcase their drawings on streets, panels, facades, and large walls. As an artistic expression, street art has attracted the interest of public and private entities, gaining space and prominence in several cities across the country, with particular emphasis on the **techniques and messages conveyed by the artists through their art.**

See more at:

[Street Art in Portugal | www.visitportugal.com](http://www.visitportugal.com)



Amália, by Vhils, Lisbon

Mural of Freedom, by Ruído, Bragança



Murals of Freedom

In 2024, Portugal celebrates the **50th anniversary of April 25th**, the date of the Carnation Revolution that ended the dictatorship in the country. Inspired by this spirit and the values of freedom, democracy, and humanism, the duo Ruído is painting several murals across the country (mainland and islands), totaling **14 works that focus on the period before, during, and after the Revolution.** Each mural aims to tell a story, a moment, highlighting the connection between the location or city hosting the painting and the most important events of the Carnation Revolution. This artistic tour intends to mark a **significant milestone for the country** and to celebrate the values achieved by the Portuguese since April 1974.

See more at:

[Murals of Freedom | www.visitportugal.com](http://www.visitportugal.com)

Muro dos Oceanos

Biodiversity, the **protection of the Ocean**, and various endangered marine species were the starting points for creating and painting the Wall of the Oceans.

Developed by many hands, twelve artists accepted the challenge of painting a **200-meter wall**, an initiative by **Zebra Radiante / Crack Kids** with the support of **Turismo de Portugal**, in partnership with the Oceanário de Lisboa, the Urban Art Gallery of the Lisbon City Council, and the Curry Cabral Hospital which provided the wall.



Oceans Wall, Lisbon

The painting features several species such as the sunfish, seahorse, and ray (which can be seen at the Oceanário), as well as others well-known in Portugal, such as sardines, tuna, black scabbardfish, sharks, and whales.

See more at:

[Oceans Wall |
visitportugal.com](https://www.visitportugal.com/en/oceans-wall)

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Craft Art is Technique

LEARN BY DOING

Discover Portugal through the hands of artists **inspired by tradition** and skilled in innovatively working with timeless materials.

Portuguese handicraft is an immense, colorful tapestry woven with people, artisans, family traditions, and ancestral knowledge. These marks of identity reinforce social cohesion and contribute to regional sustainability and economic development.

In wood carving, ceramics, furniture, jewelry, and other crafts, artisans and designers are **reclaiming traditional Portuguese materials** to create contemporary pieces. They infuse their work with identity, personality, and passion, developing small-scale production using **innovative technologies** and promoting **sustainable consumption**.



*Timeless
materials*

To truly experience the local culture, **learning a craft and participating in community life** offer a unique way to spend a holiday. It is more enriching and will contribute to gratifying personal satisfaction while reducing your travel footprint. **Learning by doing**, participating in workshops and ateliers, sharing knowledge, contributing to the local community, and uncovering stories of a lifetime **will make all the difference.**



Woman working on Arraiolos Tapestry, Arraiolos

See more:
[Take a little of Portugal home](#)

[Portugal Manual | Cultural Experience](#)

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